THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 10-11 | Oncilla

phoenixdragon1690

It's her, you guys. The WoF series' longest-lasting, most iconic villain sweeps onto the stage in all her vengefully majestic glory, ready to rain fury upon the heads of any who oppose her, be they overconfident scavengers or her own daughters or the very dragonets of destiny. Isn't it *thri*--

Okay, yeah, I'll stop.

Welcome back to the Dragonet Prophecy Reread: Chapters 10 and 11, in which, as you might have guessed, Queen Scarlet makes her first appearance.

Also, slightly early wishes for a happy Second-Blue-Moon-This-Year, everyone! Um...and also Easter. That's important too.

This reread may contain SPOILERS for any and all Wings of Fire books. If you have not finished the series, read ahead at your own peril.

SUMMARY
Chapter 10: A scavenger shows up! ...And proceeds to be freaking useless by dropping its weapon as soon as it sees a dragon. Really dude? Tsunami is skeptical that one of these tiny things killed Oasis; Clay wants to eat it; both of them are delighted by its bag of treasure. A SkyWing then appears, bites the scavenger's head off, demands her treasure back, and announces her identity: Queen Scarlet.

Chapter 11: Clay, being a reasonable and sane dragon, is terrified of Scarlet and wants to leave; Scarlet wants to take them back to her palace. Tsunami, being somewhat less of a reasonable and sane dragon, stabs Scarlet with the scavenger's sword, and she and Clay flee. They find a hiding place to wait until the sun rises and they're sure Scarlet's off their tails, and then follow Starflight and Sunny's smoke signal to find the cave.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
"She was smaller than he had expected--smaller than Kestrel--but Clay knew they shouldn't underestimate the SkyWing queen. She'd held onto her power for thirty years, despite fourteen brave, foolish, extremely dead-now challengers. She was one of the longest-lived and deadliest queens in Pyrrhia. Not to mention one of the worst possible dragons to get her claws on the dragonets of destiny, especially since she was allied with Burn, who hated the prophecy and had destroyed the SkyWing egg six years ago.

Clay tried to remember anything else they'd learned about Scarlet. All he could think was scary*."*

:D

Just like last week, there's another bit I wish I could quote that's way too long. It's the four paragraphs between "'The entrance must be down there somewhere'" and "Tsunami thumped down beside him…" is you want to go check it out. A bit of it is quoted below, too.

THE DRAGONETS
"I know you like bringing [Glory] pretty things to cheer her up, but I saw this first." ~Tsunami

Aww, it's adorable that Clay does that. I bet he still does it after the series, too, when he can--diplomatic meetings not going well? Random pretty seashells show up on Glory's pillow (or dragon equivalent) that night. Stressful day as queen? "Hey, Glory, I found this necklace in a shop in Possibility...."

"Clay...had the same funny feeling he'd had looking at Tsunami's crooked wing--that if he relaxed and just looked, he could see how things should fit together....He pictured the tunnel from the study cave to the central hall and mapped it out on the craggy rocks below. 'Here,' he called to Tsunami."

For all that Clay is supposedly not that smart, he seems to be a really good spatial thinker.

"He dug sharp gashes in the mud with his claws. The dragonets never even had a chance *to be trustworthy. Maybe Clay didn't deserve it, after attacking the others at hatching. Maybe the guardians thought something inside him might snap at any moment. But there was no reason to have kept Sunny and Glory and Starflight and Tsunami in the dark all these years."*

Man, I totally forgot this internal monologue existed. It's a great one. Poor Clay, growing up thinking he's a monster.

The further we get into this reread, the angrier I get at the guardians. "Trying to protect the dragonets" is a terrible excuse for what they've done to these poor kids.

WORLDBUILDING
Tons of info on scavengers, including a description. The scavenger's sword is "four times as long as a regular dragon claw," and it moves in a way that is "almost dragonlike, as if it were trying to communicate with them." And then the poor thing gets decapitated. It tastes like fish apparently?

The dragonets' cave is apparently under a plateau rather than a traditional mountain. And Webs has a mahogany chest that he keeps scrolls in, which is interesting.

BIOLOGY AND CULTURE
Huh, even Clay's in on the tongue-flicking action now. Scarlet is slightly bigger than Clay, and she's got smoke wreathing her horns for pretty much the whole scene.

Clay notes several SkyWings flying around distant peaks, "fire flickering around them like lightning."

Clay is warm enough now to breathe fire, yay.

CULTURAL BIASES
Since these are a thing that show up often enough that they probably need their own section.

"A MudWing using his head. You don't see that very often."

I wonder if the origin of this particular bias has something to do with most dragons considering loyalty unnatural? Because MudWings are always protecting their siblings, and clearly, only an idiot would put the needs of another dragon above their own...

DRAGONSPEAK
This is a body language thing, but "Queen Scarlet silenced her with a flick of her tail."

"Doesn't that sound thrilling?"

DIFFERENCES WITH LATER BOOKS
"She'd held onto her power for thirty years, despite fourteen brave, foolish, extremely dead-now challengers."

Hold on, let me go check Escaping Peril…yep, it's consistent. "She killed her mother plus all three of her sisters and eleven of ours."

COMMENTARY
About why Scarlet has orange scales even though her name is, well, Scarlet: I've got a theory that she hatched with scarlet scales that lightened with age, and thus her name was originally accurate.

Wait, why is Scarlet here, anyway? The SkyWing palace is not exactly close to the dragonets' cave. Maybe

she's visiting a noble or something.

I apologize that italics and stuff are super inconsistent. I'm still trying to figure out how I want to do some of the formatty stuff. Looks like Fairydragon can't do the annotations this week, so if anyone else wants to do that, I'd really appreciate it!

Anyway, see you next week, when the dragonets' escape attempt goes horribly wrong.

Previous reread: /319146 Index: /317770

7

Such is the path of a dreamer: I find my way by moonlight.

~Oncilla~

Queen of Non Sequitur, Bookwyrms, Pangolins, and Bones

Trash Squad, Werewolf, GASTER FOLLOWER

Writer, roleplayer, nerd

WoFMBer Dec. 2014-Mar. 2019

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mintychocolate65

This was a *thrilling* passage to read.

...Okay, I won't make anymore Scarlet jokes. But I do agree with your theory about Scarlet's scales. It makes sense, and I've been bothered by it for a long time.

0

Choco-Minty *(She/Her)*
(my apologies if that's hard to read)
Call me Choco, call me Minty - I don't mind
"Happiness is here today; gone tomorrow."
I won't be all that active, my apologies once again
"Smiles go for miles!"

THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 10-11 | Oncilla

phoenixdragon1690

poke

0

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catdragon13873

That has some pretty funny parts

0

~~JADE~~ SQUIDSHIPQUAKE
oceans rise, empires fall
we have seen each other through it all

for even if i'm far away i hold you in my heart

no matter where you go
you'll never be alone

toffee's still a walnut

I'm going down with this ship

THE DRAGONET PROPHECY REREAD | Chapters 10-11 | Oncilla

moonsteel33

THE TONGUE-FLICKING HAS STRUCK CLAY
THERE IS NO ESCAPE

0

Sanetra

11562+ stars - Apr 2017 - Mar 2019

Life is the greatest gift. You've all helped shape mine. I can never thank you all enough. It's been so good.

Amigos
*eureka*DarkseaBearBlackberryVertigoLector*Gulfy*Caleo*Zodiak*TS
...I'm with you to the end

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phoenixdragon1690

bump

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cleverdragon364

Scarlet is there because she's pursuing the scavenger Clay and Tsunami encountered, if I recall correctly. I really like your theory about Scarlet's name, and the observation about MudWings being regarded as stupid over loyalty is one I've never thought about before.

1

***Clever,* *A Very Clevery Guy* ❤❤❤**
[exits, pursued by a bear]

bringing you cool good posts: Dec. 2014 - March 2019
appreciating and supporting you: today - forever!!!!

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phoenixdragon1690

Oh, yeah, I forgot that. *Facepalm*

How did it get so far, though, and why did she come out herself instead of sending guards? Probably because she's not exactly the type to trust other people with her treasure....

1

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catdragon13873

More

1

~~*JADE*~~ *SQUIDSHIPQUAKE*
oceans rise, empires fall
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you'll never be alone

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On Friday

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Anybody willing to do the annotations?

0

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cleverdragon364

Chapter 10

A short, pale creature stumbled into the moonlit clearing in front of them. The top of its furry head was barely as high as Clay's shoulder. It had two long, thin legs and two dangling arms that ended in floppy, clawless talons. One arm held something pointy, like a giant dragon's claw, and the other was wrapped around a bulky sack.
Tui: Oh boy! Our first scavenger! (Don't get too attached.)

"Starflight says they're endangered," Tsunami said. "But I say it's their fault we're all in this war, so eat as many as you like."
Tui: This line makes me really happy. I do think humans would be endangered in a dragon world, don't you? Especially if they keep trying to steal the dragons' treasure...morons. ;-)

"I know you like bringing her pretty things to cheer her up, but I saw this first."
Tui: OK - here's a big writer's secret for you guys. In the very very first draft of this first manuscript, I wrote Clay as having a crush on Glory. I know, doesn't that seem so weird now? Because it didn't work at all. For one thing, I already had Starflight in love with Sunny, and that was much more believable. And when I tried to write Clay that way, it just didn't fit - he's so sweet and oblivious and he kind of loves everybody, and most of all, his whole arc is realizing that he's their big brother and that's the most important part of his destiny. So I took out almost all the romantic feelings I'd tested between any of the dragonets, but especially for Clay. What he needs most (especially as a MudWing) is a group of siblings, not a love interest. And that's how they all started feeling to me as well, like brothers and sisters. (Sorry to all the Claynami shippers out there! Is there even a Clay-Glory name? They're so clearly wrong for each other now...it's funny to imagine where that could have gone.)

...[Scarlet] bent down and bit off its head.
Tui: Yup, that scavenger lasted two pages. This is what it's like to be a human in a dragon world!

The orange dragon
Tui: My one regret in the series - why did I make her orange instead of red? Her name is SCARLET, for goodness' sakes. What is wrong with me? These are the decisions that haunt authors for years...

He didn't like the sound of a dragon who had her own dungeons.
Tui: That does seem like a warning sign.

Chapter 11

She was smaller than he had expected - smaller than Kestrel
Tui: In this case, it's not because Scarlet is younger, but because she's just a naturally small dragon...although Clay is right, that doesn't make her any less dangerous!

"I like to hear the MudWing speak," [Scarlet] said.
Tui: Me too! Although I wouldn't put it quite so menacingly. ;-)

"I hate being abandoned mid-conversation."
Tui: Me too! Oh dear, maybe Scarlet and I have more in common than I'd like to admit.

"thrilling"
Tui: Queen Scarlet's favorite word, if you didn't know that already! Which is ironic, because it's also one of MY favorite words, but she's kind of ruining it for me.

...thinking for the first time in his life that maybe Kestrel was right about everything. Most especially about staying under the mountain and avoiding all the bad dragons out in the world.
Tui: I think this is a really interesting theme in some of the things I've read or seen - the conflict between parents wanting to protect their kids and the children wanting to be free and independent. I really love Into the Woods, especially because of the way Sondheim depicted the witch's relationship with Rapunzel. You can see why the witch kept her trapped up in that tower...and when Rapunzel escapes, she finds out pretty quickly that it isn't actually all that dangerous out there, and maybe in some ways the witch was right. Don't get me wrong; I'm not in favor of keeping children locked up to protect them! But this moment is exactly about that tension...the dragonets really need to be free, but there is still definitely some truth in all the warnings they've been getting from Kestrel.

...what could five dragonets do to save a world this big?
Tui: Of course, he's never realized how big this world is before - he had no way to even imagine it.

But Clay had no idea how they'd escape the mountains now that the SkyWing queen was probably hunting them in a towering rage.
Tui: Also, where are they going? This is perhaps not the most thought-out plan, Clay.

But Clay guessed it was really because the guardians didn't trust him and his friends. They didn't trust them not to fly away. They didn't trust them to act smart and avoid drawing attention to themselves.
Tui: Here's that tension again... doesn't every teenager wish his parents would trust him more? I did!

He flared his wings up [to stop Tsunami from going any farther]
Tui: In an earlier draft, I wrote "He threw up his wings to stop her" - and then I think it was my wise copyeditor who pointed out what that sounded like. I thought it was kind of a hilarious image, but I've been carefully avoiding it for the rest of the series...no vomiting dragons here, I hope!

☆ 0

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Awesome, thanks

☆ 0

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